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General Assembly

Sixty-third session

Official Records

28th plenary meeting
Friday, 17 October 2008, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann ..... (Nicaragua)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 103

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2008.

The five outgoing non-permanent members are the following: Belgium, Indonesia, Italy, Panama and South Africa. Those five States cannot be re-elected. Their names, therefore, should not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include in the year 2009 the following States: Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Viet Nam. The names of those States, therefore, should also not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in the year 2009, three are from Africa and Asia, one is from Eastern Europe and one is from Latin America and the Caribbean. Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII), of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: two from Africa and Asia, one from Latin America and the Caribbean and two from Western Europe and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

In accordance with established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the two States to be elected from Africa and Asia, one should be from Africa and one from Asia.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairpersons of the respective regional groups of the following. For the two vacant seats from among the African and Asian States, there are three candidates, namely, Uganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan. Of those three candidates, Uganda is an endorsed candidate.

Members are reminded that, in keeping with established practice, of the two States to be elected

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from Africa and Asia, one should be from Africa and one from Asia.

For the one vacant seat from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there is one endorsed candidate, namely, Mexico. For the two vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, there are three candidates, namely, Austria, Iceland and Turkey.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B" and "C" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed.

May I ask representatives to write clearly on the ballot papers marked "A", for the African and Asian States, the names of the two States for which they wish to vote; on the ballot papers marked "B", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, the name of the one State for which they wish to vote; and on the ballot papers marked "C", for the Western European and other States, the names of the two States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot will be declared invalid if it contains more names of Member States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it. A ballot will also be declared invalid if all the names of the Member States on that ballot do not belong to the relevant region. If a ballot paper contains names of Member States that do not belong to that region, the ballot remains valid, but only the names of the Member States that belong to the relevant region will be counted. The names of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Stone (Australia), Ms. Del Águila-Castillo (Guatemala), Ms. Kiruthu (Kenya), Ms. Beshimova (Kyrgyzstan), Mr. Zilgalvis (Latvia) and Mr. Mallia (Malta) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.40 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	1
Number of Members voting:	191
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Uganda	181
Japan	158
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	32
Madagascar	2

Group B — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	6
Number of Members voting:	186
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Mexico	185
Brazil	1

Group C — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	192
Required two-thirds majority:	128
Number of votes obtained:	
Turkey	151
Austria	133
Iceland	87
Australia	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following States were elected members of the Security Council for a two-year term beginning 1 January 2009: Austria, Japan, Mexico, Turkey and Uganda.

The President: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Security Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 103.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.